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Vega Fund announces mini-grants

HOLYOKE – The Carlos Vega Fund for Social Justice has awarded 15 mini grants totaling \$10,716 to organizations in the greater Holyoke area who are fighting injustice, oppression, and poverty. This year the fund received 18 applications totaling \$17,236.

This is the ninth year that the Carlos Vega Fund has awarded mini grants. This is the first time we were not able to present the awards at a public ceremony honoring the awardees and the important work they do.

GRANTS, 6

Baker-Polito Administration initiates Phase III

BOSTON – The Baker-Polito Administration announced that beginning Monday, July 6, Phase III of the commonwealth's reopening plan will begin and updates on gatherings will be in effect.

The Department of Public Health also issued updated guidance to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

PHASE III, 9

Bring back as many students as possible

HOLYOKE – The HPS Reopening Leadership team met on Thursday, June 25. Our meeting focused on DESE's Initial Fall School Reopening Memo. The health and safety requirements for in-person learning outlined in this document were carefully reviewed by the MA COVID-19 Command Center's Medical Advisory Board, which is comprised of physicians and other health experts, and many other members of the MA medical community. Members of our team were also able to join two calls with DESE to ask questions about the memo, including one with presentations and endorsements by Dr. Sandra Nelson, an infectious disease specialist at Massachusetts General Hospital and mother of school-aged children, and

STUDENTS, 11

Bennett Walsh fights back against firing

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – The former Superintendent of the Holyoke Soldiers Home is fighting back hard against the state after he was fired by Gov. Charlie Baker.

Bennett Walsh, who was found to be among those at fault for the severe coronavirus

outbreak within the Soldiers Home, is appealing to a Hampden Superior Court judge to vacate the firing, saying the governor and the state Health and Human Service Secretary had no right to fire him.

On June 23, a report was released by the state based on an independent investigation of the "goings-on" at the Soldiers Home ordered by Baker. The

report found fault in the decision-making and oversight by Walsh. It also concluded he was unqualified for the position.

The report led to the immediate resignation of Veterans Services Secretary Francisco Urena. The day after the report came out, Walsh was terminated as superintendent in a letter from Baker and Health

and Human Services Secretary Marylou Sudders.

Walsh was placed on administrative leave following the major outbreak. A move was made to dismiss Walsh as superintendent, but an injunction was filed because Walsh argued he could not have a proper hearing in front of the

See SOLDIERS, page 5

Online kindergarten information sessions set

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Public Schools would like to invite you to join us during one of our virtual kindergarten information sessions. Sessions will be held Tuesday July 21 from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Wednesday July 22 from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. This is the perfect opportunity for parents/guardians of children entering kindergarten in the fall to learn more about kindergarten. Rebecca Lamb, Enrollment Center Manager, will be available to answer any questions.

The sessions will be held via Zoom. You can join us with your computer, tablet or phone using the links below. We hope to see you all there.

See ONLINE, page 5



A kindergarten student points to a Spanish word during his dual language class.

Submitted photo

City Council passes conservative budget package

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – On Tuesday, June 30, the Holyoke City Council was able to agree on a \$141.36 million budget for the fiscal year 2021, which subsequently began the next day on July 1.

With the coronavirus pandemic a prominent theme in both the timing and the planning of the budget vote, city councilors were right up against the wire to pass a budget for the next year.

The council passed the budget with the knowledge there would be a number of uncertainty as the new fiscal year started and are prepared to have to make more adjustments as state shortfalls become potential realities.

During the budget process, the council agreed to cut nearly \$1 million.

The budget barely passed the council with a 7-6 slight majority. Councilors David Bartley, James Leahy, Terence Murphy, Mike Sullivan, Peter Tallman, Joseph McGiverin,

and Howard Greaney voted in favor with Gladys Lebron-Martinez, Juan Anderson-Burgos, Rebecca Lisi, Libby Hernandez, Linda Vacon, and Council President Todd McGee all voting against the package.

The cuts included a sizeable removal of \$150,000 from the snow and ice removal budget. With winters being unpredictable, there are years the city underspends that line item, and years that city deficit spends like many other communities. Lisi did attempt to return that item to the budget, but her motion failed.

Parks and Recreation lost \$30,000 all geared seasonal employees, and \$50,000 was taken from a workers' compensation.

In an effort to assist councilors with their cuts, the City Solicitor's office volunteered to defer a new associate solicitor possession.

During the conversation for the budget, Mayor Alex Morse's Chief of Staff Mike Bloomberg said the state leg-

See BUDGET, page 6

New receiver of HPS reflects on first days



Dr. Alberto
Vazquez Matos

ly, I served as the deputy superintendent of the Hartford Public Schools, leading efforts to develop the district's strategic operating plan, managed budget challenges, developed a budget formula for equitable school funding within the district, led the construction and renovation of four school buildings, and led efforts to improve outcomes for students in reading and math.

I am excited to serve the students and families in Holyoke and lead the district with integrity, innovation, and a strategic vision. I believe that every student should have equitable access to their learning and the opportunity to achieve in school and in life. I will also work every day to ensure that our district operates from an equity mindset

See RECEIVER, page 11

Applause series abruptly ends amid coronavirus pandemic

The Cultural Council is looking for donations for the next season

AGAWAM – Six months of fund-raising by the Agawam Cultural Council in support of season seventeen of its popular Applause Series abruptly came to an end this spring as everything shut down due to the coronavirus pandemic. Normally, freewill donations at these “first Friday” events would cover any shortfall. However, with only “virtual” performances on the schedule, the opportunity to collect the \$650 difference a few dollars at a time has been eliminated.

Sheila of Agawam was the first to commit her Hamilton to the cause. The Council is now challenging 64 like-minded members of the community to help raise the amount needed to fully fund the upcoming season – in \$10 increments – though larger amounts are certainly welcome! Whatever amount you can provide will be gratefully appreciated.

Please make your check out to the Agawam Cultural Council and send to Agawam Cultural Council, Agawam Town Hall, 36 Main Street, Agawam, MA 01001. Make sure to include an email so that we may acknowledge your contribution.



Since 2004, the Applause Series has hosted more than 130+ musicians, artists, authors, actors, photographers, children’s productions, historians, and others at Friday evening presentations that outgrew the Agawam Public Library, prompting a move to larger quarters at the Agawam Senior Center in order to accommodate its growing audience.

The seventeenth season of the Applause Series, consisting of twelve events, begins Friday, September 4, 2020 and will end Friday, June 4, 2021. All events will be broadcast on Agawam Comcast Channel 15 and streamed on www.agawammedia.tv until public performances can be held safely. More information can be found at www.agawamcc.org.

The Agawam Cultural Council is an all-volunteer local partner of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, and is funded, in part, by the MCC. The ACC is charged with bringing engaging, entertaining, and educational events and opportunities in the arts, humanities, and sciences, to children and adults from Agawam and the surrounding communities. There is no charge to join or to serve in the Council.

The Applause Series’ a longtime series put on by the Agawam Cultural Council, was abruptly ended due to lack of funding during the coronavirus pandemic.

Submitted photo

Coalition changes name to highlight advocacy for Soldiers’ Home

HOLYOKE – A grassroots organization that developed earlier this month to petition the state for significant capital improvements to the Soldiers’ Home in Holyoke has rebranded its efforts under a new name that incorporates their broader effort to provide greater advocacy on behalf of Veteran residents at the Soldiers’ Home and their family members.

Formerly known at the Fund Holyoke Soldiers’ Home Now coalition, the group has renamed itself the Holyoke Soldiers’ Home Coalition with a new web page that can be found at www.holyokesoldiershomecoalition.org.

Coalition members include veteran leaders, family members, veteran services’ representatives and concerned citizens, including former Soldiers’ Home Superintendent Paul Barabani and former Deputy Superintendent John Paradis. They have called on the Baker-Polito administration to address significant concerns they have with the state’s plan to improve the operations and oversight of the Soldiers’ Home in Holyoke.

A major focus for the coalition is to ensure that they are included in the discussion with the state before major reforms or construction plans go forward.

A key demand of the group is that an outreach effort must include a process for the state to receive feedback and consensus from family members and from the veteran community in Western Massachusetts.

“We, the members of the Coalition to Fund the Holyoke Soldiers’ Home Now, demand a voice on all matters regarding the future of the Soldiers’ Home in Holyoke,” the coalition states. “Our voices must be heard. In the aftermath of the COVID-19 outbreak at the Soldiers’ Home, the reforms outlined will have consequences far reaching for Veterans and their family members for years to come and we appeal to Governor Baker to include our input before moving forward. We, as a Commonwealth, must get this right if we are to move forward from the tragedy that resulted in the deaths of 76 Veterans. Their family members deserve to be heard, and we as citizens call on the Governor to hear our voices.”

A detailed list of recommendations to the state are listed on the organization’s web page. For more information about the group’s membership, mission and vision visit www.HolyokeSoldiersHomeCoalition.org.

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission receives grant for age-friendly initiative

SPRINGFIELD – To help engage and advance healthy aging throughout the region, the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission recently received a \$195,000 grant from the Tufts Health Plan Foundation.

The three-year grant will be used to convene a Pioneer Valley Age Friendly Collaborative to engage member communities in planning for an aging population.

“We have an opportunity to think differently about how our systems are addressing community needs,” said Nora Moreno Cargie, president of Tufts Health Plan Foundation and vice president for corporate citizenship at Tufts Health Plan. “We are living in unprecedented times. We need to learn from this experience and think about how we can change the conditions that hold problems in place.”

This project, led by the PVPC, formalizes an existing effort around age-friendly planning in the region. PVPC will partner with municipal planning departments, councils on aging, health care and service providers, community organizations, universities and residents to create municipal Age Friendly action plans that reflect priorities of the region’s current and future older adults.

“We are excited to expand planning for healthy aging to municipalities throughout the PVPC region,” commented Becky Basch, senior planner with the PVPC. “And by bringing together all of the cities and towns that are planning for an aging population, we will create a valuable space for sharing ideas and best practices at the local and regional levels.”

Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi postpones 2020 summer cookout

LUDLOW – Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi has postponed this year’s summer cookout.

The cookout typically draws people from across the Commonwealth and although Massachusetts has seen significant success in flattening the curve, the sheriff doesn’t want to take any chances when it comes to health and safety.

“We considered several possibilities for social distancing, but it just made sense to cancel this year’s event,” said Sheriff Cocchi. “We don’t know where things will stand with the pandemic come August and the last thing we want to do is help facilitate anyone getting sick.”

Regional Planning Commission receives \$195,000 grant from Tufts Health Plan

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission was awarded a three-year grant for \$195,000 from Tufts Health Plan Foundation.

The funds will be used to convene a Pioneer Valley Age Friendly Collaborative that will engage member communities in planning for an aging population. This is one of 13 new community investments totaling \$1.7 million that reflect the Foundation’s support of collaborative community efforts and systems change to advance healthy aging.

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About Tufts Health Plan Foundation
Established in 2008, Tufts Health Plan Foundation supports the health and wellness of the diverse communities we serve. The Foundation has given more than \$40 million to Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island nonprofits that promote healthy living with an emphasis on older adults. The Foundation began funding in New Hampshire in 2016 and in Connecticut in 2019. The Tufts Health Plan Foundation funds programs that move communities toward implementing age-friendly policies and practices that are relevant, focus on older adults and include them in community solutions. Visit www.tuftshealthplanfoundation.org or follow us on Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube.

Summer learning opportunities offered

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Public Schools are offering summer learning opportunities for students of all ages:

Special Education - ESY

Dates: July 6 - August 6
District wide - Pre-K through
Transitions Remote Learning

Dependent on student's IEP the
following ESY services will occur:

8:30 - 11:30 - 4 day (M-TH)

1 hour virtual session: google
classroom, zoom call, pre-recorded lesson

1 hour packet/guidance on follow
up at home work

1 hour: office hours

Related Services:

SP/Language, OT, Social Skills,
Tutoring, etc.. based on individual
need/IEP: virtual session, pre-recorded
lesson or follow up packets/work

Camp Communicare - for eligible
students - fully remote - families will
be notified directly

Transitions Program - start with
remote learning and will move to in
person when all safety measures are
in place and approved. Schedule will
be modified to meet all safety require-
ments.

Summer Learning Grades 1-8

Dates: July 7- August 6 (Monday-
Thursday)*

Time: 8:30am-11:30am*

*Generation Teach will operate on
a different program schedule. Dates
and times are included in the descrip-
tion.

If you have not registered your
child for the summer program and are
still interested please register them. The
options still available are listed below:



A student plays his instrument during the Summer Strings program, a summer learning program offered through the Holyoke Public Schools

Submitted photo

HPS Early Elementary Summer Academy

Students in rising grades 1, 2, & 3
will embark on a fun-filled summer jour-
ney to become young inventors in training!
Students will work remotely with
a teacher's support to solve real-world
challenges through creative and innovative
project-based learning. Utilizing the
Club Inventions curriculum, students will
be encouraged to explore their creativity
and innovation by problem solving new
solutions to existing environmental and
social issues. Student explorations will
utilize Science, Technology, Engineering,
Math, and ELA in a fun way to develop
student knowledge in each content area,
while challenging students to use critical
thinking to develop new inventions.

HPS Upper Elementary Summer Academy

Students in rising grades 4 & 5 will
embark on a fun-filled summer journey
to become young inventors in training!
Students will work remotely with
a teacher's support to solve real-world
challenges through creative and innovative
project-based learning. Utilizing the
Club Inventions curriculum, students will
be encouraged to explore their creativity
and innovation by problem-solving new
solutions to existing environmental and
social issues. Student explorations will
utilize Science, Technology, Engineering,
Math, and ELA in a fun way to develop
student knowledge in each content area,
while challenging students to use critical
thinking to develop new inventions.

Summer Strings Program

This remote summer learning
opportunity is for the complete begin-
ner and intermediate students who have
attended a Summer Strings program!
Students in rising grades 4 & 5 will
foster social-emotional and fundamental
skills on Violin and Guitar and will also
participate in Chorus, Folk Dance, and
Visual Arts! Students will perform in
community concerts. Instruments will
be provided.

Generation Teach STEAM
Academy

The GT Virtual Academy is a new-
ly-designed dynamic and engaging
6-week online program for rising 6th,
7th, and 8th graders. Students learn,
debate, and grow together in small
classes with caring teachers. Students
take three classes in reading, math,
and law. With daily community meet-
ings, advisory, raffles, and challenges,
it's sure to be an amazing summer.
Program is scheduled to run from June
29th- August 7th, 9 am until 12:15 pm,
Monday-Friday. Check out the flyer
herel En Español.

High School Programming

Dates: July 6-August 6, Monday
thru Thursday

We will run an in person summer
school on the North campus, featuring
two course sessions Monday through
Thursday, 9-10 am and 10:15 to 11:15
am, with required daily remote office
hours and graded assignments.

HHS will also run a remote summer
school which will support students to
earn credit either through our on-line
PLATO curriculum, or through the com-
pletion of 4th quarter work.

Couple honored as Mass. Foster Parents of the Year

By Amy Langone

Adam and Wendy of Hampden
County were recently named the
Massachusetts Foster Parents of the Year
for their dedication and devoted work to
raising awareness about the overwhelming
need that exists for fostering in our
community and beyond.

Each year this honorable title
is bestowed to foster parents of each
county of the state of Massachusetts.
This honorable distinction was entire-
ly deserving and justified. The veracity
of this honor being completely deserving
comes firsthand as Wendy happens
to be my twin sister. While I want to
bring attention to the worthy honor that
was bestowed to my sister and brother-
in-law, Adam, and Wendy's plight of
increasing awareness of the foster system
and the tremendous need that exists
is far more critical. Their story so easily
could be your story. More importantly,
their story could spark interest in you or
a loved one to consider fostering and to
rethink what fostering really is.

The idea of fostering a child had
tugged at Wendy's heart for many years,

but the fears and unknowns of it kept
the idea of fostering a dream for them,
never coming to fruition. Wendy and
Adam heard the scary/devastating stories
we have all heard and used those
stories to build the foundation of their
understanding and knowledge of what
the foster care system was, thus allowing
their fears of the unknown impede them
from pursuing what they felt they were
being called to do. While the notion of
fostering continued to swirl around in
their minds, life went on.

One day, Wendy ran into a good
friend from high school that was foster-
ing a little girl. Wendy had not known
that her friend was fostering a child until
she saw her that day. This chance meet-
ing caused Wendy to begin to ask all the
questions that she had pondered in her
mind and her heart for so long. Wendy
wanted to learn if her fears were valid or
not. The more she asked, the more she
learned. She learned that some of her
fears were in fact part of the process, but,
more importantly, she learned that many
of the fears she had held were not true.

As Wendy spoke with her friend, she
looked at this beautiful little girl stand-

ing before her. She was healthy, well
adjusted, and obviously well loved. After
an hour of time spent with her friend,
Wendy was given the opportunity to ask
every question she had ever thought of
or could think of. That hour was all it
took. Wendy called Adam on her way
home and told him about what had hap-
pened and together they decided they
were going to take action to foster.

That friend had no idea that her
words and the story of her life offered
so much encouragement to Wendy and
was what Wendy needed to finally take
action to do what she felt she was being
called to do. That friend's willingness
to answer all of Wendy's questions and
tell her story so freely was all it took for
Wendy and Adam to say yes to fostering.
This is Adam and Wendy's story to fos-
tering.

For this reason, Adam and Wendy
want to use their recognition of Foster
Parents of the Year to be a voice for
someone else that might need that final
push to say yes. Wendy implores you
to ask yourself, "Why not me?" She
encourages you to ask the questions you
have, verbalize your concerns, and to

find the facts. When asked "Is it (foster-
ing) hard?", Wendy answers "Yes, 100%.
Is it worth it, though? Yes, 1,000%."

Being the sister and the foster aunt,
I would be remiss to forego this opportu-
nity to convey what fostering has meant
to our network of family and friends.
Adam and Wendy's decision to choose
fostering allowed us the amazing for-
tune of having this handsome, brilliant,
remarkable, loving, caring boy in our
lives. It is truly astounding how utterly
perfectly this baby boy fit into all our
lives like a puzzle piece we never knew
was missing. The overflowing love we
all felt for him since the moment we met
him was surreal.

When Adam and Wendy chose to
foster, it was a selfless decision. They
had no way to know at that time what
they would receive in return. That is
what fostering is. You offer yourself but
receive more back than you could ever
have imagined. Be the good in a world
where you can find hate and injustice
anywhere you turn. As Wendy says, "If,
by telling my story, it gets one person to
even consider fostering, then I will con-
tinue to tell my story over and over."

Intro fishing classes available online

Those interested in learning to fish
may now do so in the comfort of their
own homes by utilizing their home
computer. The Massachusetts Division of
Fisheries and Wildlife is now offering
free, online introductory fishing classes
designed to teach the basics to folks of all
ages.

Topics include gear required to take
the first cast, where to find fishing spots,
fish identification and anatomy, as well as
the basic rules and regulations for fishing

the inland waters of the commonwealth.

Classes are available, Monday, July
13; Tuesday, July 21 and Wednesday, July
29. All classes will take place from 4 to 6
p.m.

Registration is required as space is
limited to 50 people per class. Upon regis-
tration, participants will receive a link to
join the virtual classroom.

For more information or to register,
visit mass.gov/service-details/angler-education-calendar.

Virtual chat with the 'Car Doctor'

WILBRAHAM – Basic car main-
tenance is important all year long, but
during the current pandemic, it has
become a challenge as vehicles have sat
longer than normal, using less gas and
remaining germ and virus free.

To help residents discuss these and
other car care topics, the Wilbraham
Public Library will host AAA's "Car
Doctor" John Paul Wednesday, July 22
at 6 p.m. for a virtual discussion.

Paul, a 35-year employee at AAA

and an ASE certified master technician,
writes for AAA and pens weekly
columns for the Boston Globe and
Providence Journal. He is a regular
guest on television and radio shows
across the region.

Registration is required for the
event and participants will receive a
link to the virtual presentation. For
more information or to register, call the
library at 596-6141 or visit wilbraham-library.org.

Guest Column

Was it something that was said?

By Joan E. B. Coombs

More often than not, normal conversations are back-and-forth discussions. The dialogue is often productive and meaningful. In lonely contrast, a monologue is usually described as a single statement spoken by one person.

Apparently spoken words can actually enhance different situations and there's no two ways about it.

Perhaps you've heard the expression, "A one way conversation is for the birds." True. It's hard to listen for an answer when talking to birds, or talking to yourself. Yet, I must admit, that the only bird that I've heard talk was in my earliest years on Planet Earth. The wordy birdy was Pete, our blue and yellow parakeet. And, the extent of his repeated vocabulary was "pretty boy."

However, in our cozy, little corner of the world, the conversations are still continuing about and with our home's entrance-light-nested, parenting barn swallows. Their lifestyles are domestically and aeronautically impressive. During the day they swoop and scoop for insects from God's nourishing ground. At night they settle over newly-hatched nestlings for a summer time snooze.

The stop and chat conversations, from Barn Swallow parents to persons, is still ongoing! So, whenever we go outside to the car, there's a protocol.

Tap. Tap. We rap on our inside door before leaving to warn them, so that the little nestlings aren't startled. Then the parents dart from their nest. As we walk toward the car, they soar in overhead flight patterns, performing and showing off their soaring skills with wide-spread wings they flaunt their forked tails. After zooming in for a touchdown landing on our white-globe lawn lantern, they perch only feet from us, looking in our direction, they wait with un-baited breath for our greetings.

"WELL, HELLO! How's your day going?"

Each barn swallow stands on spindle legs, with titled heads — as if attentive to our cheerful, soft-spoken words. As our conversation ensues, they reply by fluffing their feathers. When our bird-to-human dialogue is over, after getting into our car and looking back — they are still there watching our every move.

Also, other home-turf conversations are said to be beneficial. In fact, since the mid 1800s there's a theory that talking to plants is



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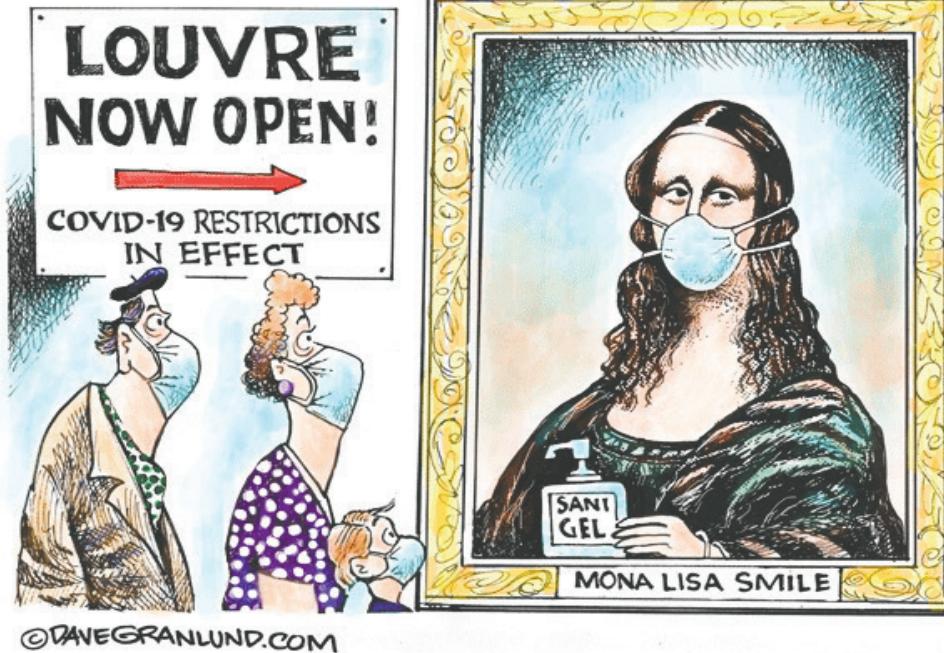
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See COOMBS, page 5



Guest Column

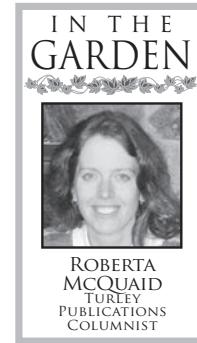
Rabbits, rabbits and more rabbits

Dorothy from South Hadley has a bunny problem! She has asked for some advice and I have the perfect column waiting in the archives. I have written on this subject before and will probably be moved to write about it again sometime in the future. Here it is and it's worth a chuckle.

Rabbits have chomped on the chard, crunched on the carrots and bitten the beets, the broccoli and beans. Despite what I said in articles past, they have even mowed the marigolds...down to nothing. Yes, that one bunny of two summers ago, somehow, as rabbits would, had amazingly turned into four by early summer, last season. Then, as if a miracle happened in my own yard, all but one disappeared. We went into the winter watching a lone rabbit, grazing at dusk and dawn on the clover in the back yard. Ah, how pretty.

Fast forward to this spring. At last count, we have six rabbits in all areas of the landscape. We play a game on the back porch only to be interrupted by the kids shouting: "Look, a bunny!" Over and over again. We go out the front door and spook one in the flower garden. They taunt me as I hang the laundry. Not even the sprinkler sends them running anymore! As my husband jokingly offers up all sorts of ways to disperse them, I think about the tactics that have worked in the past.

Back at the old house I never had a problem with rabbits in my garden until after the dog died. It would be safe to assume that "the marking of his territory" had something to do with keeping the bunnies at bay. Outside of dog urine, there are lots of other



ROBERTA MCQUAID
TURLEY PUBLICATIONS COLUMNIST

deterrents out there that folks swear by. One is dried blood. The smell signals danger. To be effective it must be reapplied each week as well as after it rains. You can either sprinkle a narrow band around the perimeter of the border or place containers of it in the garden. Dried blood is a nitrogen fertilizer and is available at most garden centers. It will burn sensitive plants if applied directly on top of them, so sprinkle it a few inches away from the base. Along the same line would be ammonia sprays. I have also heard of different home brews that you may, or may not want to whip up in your blender. One consists of garlic, hot peppers and marigold (Ha!) leaves; maybe this combination would work better than the other tactics already tried. Again, these would need to be replenished periodically.

A less attractive but better option to control rabbits would be to install a wire fence. It should be at least three feet tall and dug into the ground four inches or more. Be sure that the fence is fine enough so that the rabbit's head won't fit through the holes as the unfortunate rabbit that is able to fit his head may think that the rest of his body will follow suit. When it doesn't, panic ensues and the result is not something I would want anyone to find in his or her garden a day later. Just ask my husband.

Rabbits will eat almost anything except for prickly plants, hairy plants and strong-smelling/tasting plants. For prickly plants think globe thistle (echinops ritro); blue globes bloom in early July. Sea holly

See GARDEN, page 5

the Sun
HOLYOKE
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A Quote

OF NOTE

"Challenges are what make life interesting and overcoming them is what makes life meaningful."

Joshua J. Marine

Letters to the Editor Policy

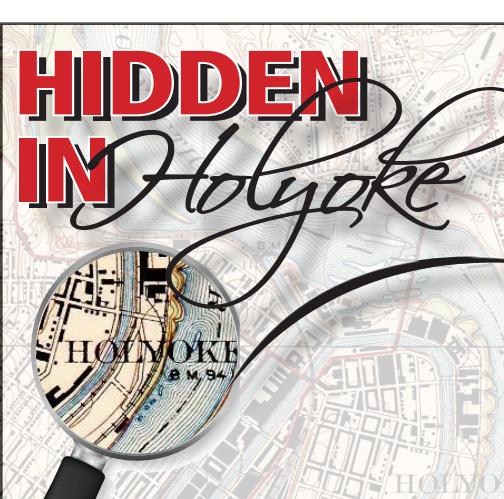
Letters to the Editor have a maximum of 350 words. We require writers to include their name, address and phone number in order for our office to authenticate authorship prior to publication. Addresses and phone numbers are not published.

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions. Libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks or defamation of character are not allowed.

Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

Please email (preferred) letters to thesun@turley.com. Mailed letters can be sent to *The Sun*, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.



Each week, *The Holyoke Sun* will feature a photo of a distinctive place, landmark, sculpture, sign or other recognizable object located somewhere in the city.

Think you know what or where it is? Readers are encouraged to submit their guesses to "Hidden in Holyoke" via email to TheSun@Turley.com. In order to qualify for the weekly contest, entries must be received by Wednesday at noon for inclusion into Friday's edition. Please include your full name with your guess in an email to TheSun@turley.com. If more than one correct answer is received, the names of all those who submitted guesses will be listed. For more information, contact *The Holyoke Sun* at 413-283-8398.

Last week's
"Hidden in Holyoke"
was the
International
Volleyball Hall of Fame.

Adult center seeking donations for programs

LONGMEADOW — The Longmeadow Adult Community Center Fund (LACCF) has announced the public phase of its \$750,000 campaign to furnish and support the new Longmeadow Adult Community Center at Greenwood Park, which is currently under construction on Maple Road in Longmeadow.

The Longmeadow Adult Community Center Fund (LACCF) has already raised \$548,001 to support critical services and capital needs for the building, which is a joint project between the Town of Longmeadow and the Council on Aging.

The Longmeadow Adult Community Center Fund (LACCF) was established in 2019 as a non-profit organization for the purpose of raising funds to support critical services, capital needs and programs for seniors, delivered by the Council on Aging at the new Adult Community Center.

In a true private-public partnership, LACCF collaborates closely with the Town of Longmeadow and the Council on Aging to identify where fundraising efforts can best support the social, health and wellness, and life-long learning



The Longmeadow Adult Community Center is looking more fundraising toward their new building.

Submitted photo

needs of Longmeadow's aging population. Fundraising priorities developed through this collaboration are focused on creating a vibrant new Adult Community Center that will better serve the broad array of interests and needs of older adults in our community now and into the future.

According to LACCF President, Marybeth Bergeron, "We've developed a website to let those interested in the programs of the Longmeadow Adult

Community Center learn about our progress in raising our goal of \$750,000, what their contributions will support, and acknowledge the individuals, businesses, and foundation who have supported the campaign to date. There are portals for potential donors, those interested in tracking the campaign's progress, named gift opportunities, and general information about the project, plus links to programs and services".

The following Longmeadow resi-

dents comprise the LACCF Board of Directors: Marybeth Bergeron, President; Judy Yaffe, Treasurer; and Directors Kathy Cotoiro, Eleanor Cress, Saul Finestone, Ellen Freyman, Pat Jorczak, Janine McVay, and Marjorie Morgan.

When the doors of the Longmeadow Adult Community Center open later this year, the town will have a state-of-the art facility offering a beautiful and vibrant place to gather once again with friends and family — with educational and travel programs, a café, meeting spaces, gym, walking track, pickleball courts, fitness equipment, health, wellness and social activities and social services. Each service is implemented to assist members of the Longmeadow community in living full, healthy and active lives as they age.

Through the generosity of the Lawson Family, LACCF is thrilled to announce that a \$50,000 challenge grant has been awarded from Kevin and Susan Lawson of Longmeadow to secure matching contributions from new donors to the Campaign. All donations to the Campaign are tax deductible to the extent provided by law.

SOLDIERS, from page 1

Soldiers Home Board of Trustees.

Now, Walsh and his attorney are arguing that the Board of Trustees are the only body that can fire Walsh.

Former longtime Hampden County District Attorney William Bennett is representing Walsh. Walsh is the former DA's nephew.

He wrote the governor fired Walsh improperly and had no authority to fire him, calling the dismissal "unlawful."

The report, written by Boston Attorney Mark Pearlstein, was 174 pages long and included more than 100 interviews with witnesses from staff to family members of veterans.

In the summary, Pearlstein states that in addition to the 76 veterans who died from the coronavirus, 84 more veterans were infected and more than 80 staff members also tested positive.

The report places the blame of the outbreak on Walsh and his staff.

"Superintendent Bennett Walsh and his clinical and administrative teams failed in their mission, or that the Commonwealth's oversight of the Home was insufficient," the report states. "However, our analysis of the Home's preparations for response to COVID-19 in light of existing public health recom-

mendations has identified substantial errors and failures by the Home's leadership that likely contributed to the death toll during the outbreak.

"Indeed, some of the critical decisions made by Mr. Walsh and his leadership team during the final two weeks of March were utterly baffling from an infection-control perspective, and were inconsistent with the Home's mission to treat its veterans with honor and dignity.

The report also found fault with the oversight, which included the Massachusetts Department of Veterans Services, leading to Urena's resignation.

Among the faults the report found, two locked dementia units were used and veterans were placed in those units with varying COVID-19 statuses. There was a failure to properly isolate those that had COVID-19, delays in closing common spaces, and delays in testing when veterans were showing symptoms of the virus.

Baker plans to have further discussion about the Soldiers Home and how to address the situation on a permanent basis. There is also a petition circulating in the region seeking for the Baker-Polito administration to make major improvements to the facilities at the Soldiers Home. Baker plans to place more oversight on the home in order to ensure an incident like this does not happen again.

COOMBS, from page 4

one of the ways to help them grow. (Now that's a down-to-earth monologue for sure. Yes. I've certainly had words with outdoor plants, mainly asking, "Please grow enough to crowd out the weeds.")

Other times I've conversed well by whispering sweet somethings to my

indoor plants. "Goodness! You look a little dry today!" So, I gushed water over them. (Although I talked often to my house plants, it remains a mystery why most of them went to "plant heaven.")

Whether it's those earlier talks to plants — or if it's these recent chats with barn swallows, (even if one-way conversations) — do you suppose it was because of something that was said?

came time to clip the scapes off of my garlic plants, I collected the stems and dispersed them in and amongst the broccoli. It worked for a time being, probably as long as the scapes held their stink.

The best solution for us would be a fence or two. Until then, if you hear "Go!" and "Get outa here!" coming from my house, you'll know why!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

ONLINE, from page 1

Join the virtual kindergarten information sessions with the following:

Tuesday, July 21

5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

7/21: <https://bit.ly/31qH98E>

Call in: 1-646-558-8656

Meeting ID: 865 4780 9837

Password: 596600

Wednesday, July 22

6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

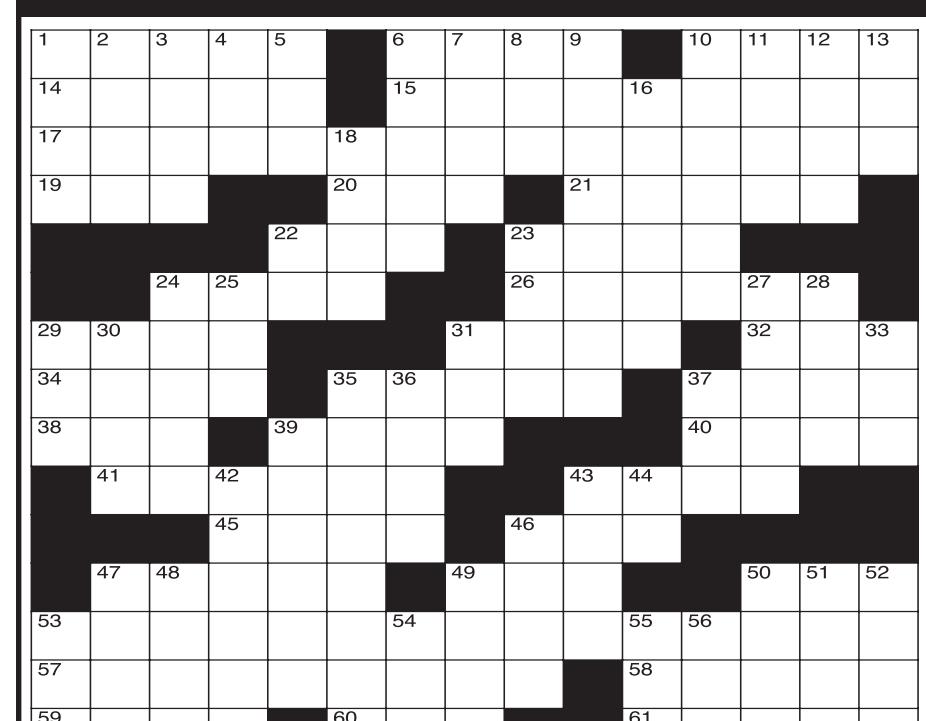
Join Zoom Meeting

7/22: <https://bit.ly/3glbA4z>

Call in: 1-646-558-8656

Meeting ID: 821 1947 9364

Password: 322539



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Cyprinids
- 6. Icelandic literary works
- 10. Break in half
- 14. Japanese mushroom
- 15. Have offspring
- 17. Not feeling well
- 19. A very large body of water
- 20. Witch
- 21. Behemoth
- 22. Speak negatively of
- 23. Absence of difficulty
- 24. Pampering places
- 26. Drives
- 29. Truck that delivers beer
- 31. Makes
- 32. A team's best pitcher
- 34. ___ Carvey, comedian
- 35. Seas
- 37. S. American plants
- 38. Time zone
- 39. Deviate
- 40. No longer are
- 41. Moving in slowly
- 43. Patrick and Glover are two
- 45. Living quarters
- 46. Taxi
- 47. Pancake made of buckwheat flour
- 49. Swiss river
- 50. Not happy
- 53. Have surgery
- 57. Formal withdrawal
- 58. Give way to anxiety
- 59. Greek war god
- 60. 2K lbs.
- 61. Word of farewell
- 10. Long, upholstered seat
- 11. Capital of Okinawa Prefecture
- 12. A one-time aspect of Egyptian sun god Ra
- 13. Prefix denoting "in a"
- 16. Propels upward
- 18. What we are talking about
- 22. Prosecutor
- 23. Employee stock ownership plan
- 24. He brings kids presents
- 25. Burmese monetary unit
- 27. Hurries
- 28. Injury remnant
- 29. Tooth caregiver
- 30. Elvis backup singer Betty Jane
- 31. "The Partridge Family" actress Susan
- 33. Midway between east and southeast
- 35. Most excellent
- 36. Heat units
- 37. Possess legally
- 39. Food items
- 42. Skeletal structures
- 43. Challenge to do something bold
- 44. Blood type
- 46. Sammy ___, songwriter
- 47. Farmer (Dutch)
- 48. Clare Booth ___, American writer
- 49. Piers Anthony's protagonist
- 50. Malaysian coastal city
- 51. Hairstyle
- 52. NY-based department store
- 53. Geosciences organization (abbr.)
- 54. Brazilian city
- 55. Niger-Congo languages
- 56. Gesture

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 9



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— L.W., Family Member, Facebook Review, 06/06/20.

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An elementary student completes an art project focused on Independence Day during one of the summer programs offered by the Holyoke Public Schools.

Submitted photo

GRANTS, from page 1

The awardees are: Clinical and Support Options, Enchanted Circle Theater, Girls Inc. of the Valley and Plunge Arts, First Shift Productions, Granby Public Schools, The Gray House, Holyoke Public Schools, Holyoke Safe Neighborhood Initiative, Holyoke Senior Center and Western Mass Elder Care, Home City Development, OneHolyoke CDC, The Performance Project, Treehouse, Seeds of a Father, and Wistariahurst Museum.

Carlos Vega was an ardent activist for civil rights, community-building, education, healthcare, and social justice in

Holyoke. The donor designated fund, which is managed by the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts, was started in 2010 to honor Carlos on his 60th birthday and to continue his forty-year legacy by awarding small grants to nonprofit organizations through an annual competitive process.

The mini grants are awarded to initiatives that foster change and promote empowerment, self-help, and economic, political, and social justice. The purpose of the mini grants is to support efforts to address injustice, oppression, and poverty in the greater Holyoke area, particularly for those who are marginalized by our society.

BUDGET, from page 1

islature is likely to pass a smaller budget package to get through the next couple of months during the pandemic.

The city and state are both awaiting word on pending relief funding for coronavirus-related expense from the state.

The school budget passed without any cuts being made. It is a 107.4 million budget, a seven percent increase in spending from last year.

The Holyoke Public Schools have been in receivership for the past five years and the Receiver/Superintendent

Dr. Stephen Zrike retired at the end of the school year.

The School Department's budget proposal has a \$93.9 million tag, but Finance Director Anthony Soto said the rest is fringe benefits for the employees of the district.

"It is important to note that the budget the City of Holyoke publishes for schools is much less because it does not include Fringe Benefits for the School Department," Soto's summary states. "The budget the City published is \$93.9 million, which represents an increase of \$5.4 million or 6.0%."



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Fellows wins three in a row at Monadnock Speedway

WINCHESTER, NH: This past Sunday afternoon (July 5), Monadnock hosted the Tri Track 100 where Craig Lutz came out on top for the victory. Other winners included: Nathan Wenzel (Granby, Ma), Jaret Curtis (Rutland, Ma), Aaron Fellows (Croydon, NH) and Ben Byrne (Deerfield, Ma).

The Mini Stocks kicked off the day's racing events with their 25-lap event. Nathan Wenzel showed the field he was the man to beat on this day. Louis Maher III took the green to lead the field. Maher while going into turn one pushed up and allowed Wenzel to stick his machine on the inside of Maher and come out with the lead. "We had a fast car today; I wasn't sure how we would do today. Things just worked out for us," finished up Wenzel in victory lane. Rounding out the top five were Maher, Shelby Avery, Kevin Clayton and Ethan Marsh. The win moves Wenzel in the number two-point spot (eight points) behind Gordon Farnum, who leads the points battle. Maher and Tim LeBlanc took

down heat wins.

The 50-lap NHSTRA Modifieds were next. Ben Byrne started on the pole in the Byrne Towing #6 machine. As the green flag waved to start the event, Byrne shot to the lead as was untouchable throughout the event, leading wire to wire. Todd Patnode and Brian Robie completed the top three. "We were pretty lucky today and we had a real fast car. That's just the start for us today as we have another hundred laps to race later on this afternoon," commented Byrne in victory lane. In fact, the trio all qualified for the high paying Tri Track event later that evening. Trevor Bleau and Cameron Houle rounded out the top five. Heat wins went to Byrne and JT Cloutier. Robie with his third-place finish gives him a four-point lead in the points battle.

Jaret Curtis outlasted the field to take down the Street Stocks win. Curtis ran in the top four in the Tow Bandit Trailer's sponsored #33 all race. David

See SPEEDWAY, page 8



Craig Lutz got the win in the Tri-Track 100.

Submitted photos



Nathan Wenzel, a resident of Granby also picked up a win during the event.



Ben Byrne took the victory in the Modified event.

Quabbin Valley League calls off 2020 season

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

EASTHAMPTON – While some leagues are looking to start up play in Phase 3, one league will not be anymore.

The Quabbin Valley Over-30 Baseball League announced over the weekend that despite being scheduled to begin an eight-week season on July 12, the league was closing for at least the 2020 season.

The league has historically had six teams made up of 14-player rosters. The league recently changed its rules to allow players who are 28 and over, with the caveat that you must over 30 to pitch in the league.

There is a portion of the league's players that 45 or older, and that had led some players to decline to play due to concerns over the coronavirus

pandemic. Other players who opted out of the season for various reasons, including having pregnant wives, or other personal situations that dictated they not play this season.

When those tallies were taken, Quabbin League President Eric Castonguay posted on the league website that the league was set to begin the season with just five of its normal six teams.

"We were going to have five teams and just have each team take a bye week," said Castonguay.

The league even began opening registration back up and collecting league fees before it had to shut it back down.

Castonguay said two more of the teams informed the league four days after registration had re-opened that it would not have enough players to field

teams. Signups were not full enough in order to be able to backfill the other teams or even make four teams, prompting the league to post this message to its players and prospective players on Sunday morning.

"Registration for the Quabbin Valley Baseball League is closed until the 2021 Season. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the league has been compelled to cancel the 2020 season entirely. We would expect and hope that the 2021 season would revert to our normal format, with at least 6 teams in a full season starting at the end of April. As to 2020 league fees, unless any players wish to have a refund, fees will be credited to the 2021 season."

Castonguay said the full year off and the various concerns with the coronavirus make

See LEAGUE, page 8

Distancing, disinfecting paramount for return to gyms

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – For Western and Central Massachusetts, the return of recreational and organized sports has been long awaited, but it is not clear just how much of a return to action there will be.

Phase 3 of the Massachusetts re-opening plan has begun on Monday and the big difference between that and Phase 2 was the ability for teams and leagues to transition from having practices to having actual contests.

Included in Phase 3 is also the ability to have limited crowds for youth sports. Adult leagues have the ability to also activate, with some baseball leagues set to begin

play this week.

Also for sports enthusiasts, gym and fitness centers can also open with limited capacity and several guidelines.

Here are some helpful tips for you if you are returning to work out at your local gym.

Various equipment in gym must be at least 14 feet apart unless there is plexiglass or other physical barriers placed between the equipment. If that happens, the equipment need only be six feet apart. Equipment affected includes weights, machines, treadmills, and bikes.

The face covering rule is modified slightly.

If possible, those working

See GYMS, page 8

All Bay State Games cancelled through July 26

REGION – All Bay State Games events originally scheduled for May 30 through July 26 will be cancelled in consideration for the health and well-being of all athletes, officials, coaches, medical staff, and volunteers. The challenges and uncertainty that COVID-19 has presented prevent the organization from appropriately planning, organizing, and producing events in 30 different sports this year.

This summer, Bay State Games was

set to celebrate its 39th annual Summer Games. Due to multiple venue cancellations, the inability to conduct team sport tryouts in June, decisions by sport governing bodies to suspend competitions, medical committee concerns, as well as other factors, the Summer Games will not be able to proceed as scheduled.

"We are committed to the health and well-being of our constituents. It is of the utmost importance to keep everyone safe

during these unprecedented times," says Executive Director, Kevin Cummings. "While this was a very difficult decision, we believe it is appropriate given the unprecedented impact this pandemic has had on everyone, as well as our ability to produce events this year."

Bay State Games remains hopeful that some events may proceed in the fall if and when it is safe to do so. The specific sport pages on the Bay State Games

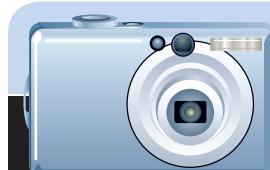
website will be updated with information as it becomes available. All athletes who have registered for the 2020 Summer Games will be refunded for their registration fee. If the sport you wish to compete in can be held in the fall of 2020, it will require a new registration.

For more information, please visit www.baystategames.org. Please direct all questions and inquiries to info@baystategames.org.

Valley Wheel Baseball still seeking players as season starts

REGION – The Valley Wheel Over-30 Baseball League is seeking new players for the upcoming 2020 season. The league is seeking players ages 28 and up. Players turning 28 this year are eligible. However, only players 30 and older can pitch. The league plays 15 regular season games with games being held mostly on Sundays with a couple of weekday games thrown in the mix as well as a special Mother's Day Saturday game in early May. However, due to the current circumstances, the league schedule has been pushed back.

The league concluded tryouts, but is still looking for players for a shortened season, which was set to begin July 9. The league is built on comradery, fair play, and having a good time with friends. If interested in trying out, go to www.valleywheelbaseball.com. The rules of the league and new player forms can be found on the site. For further information, you can contact the league's commissioner, Jim Nason at wheel12@comcast.net or call him at (413) 433-4308. Again, new players are still needed for the abbreviated season.



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SPEEDWAY, from page 7

Greenslit was able to hold on for second as third place runner Chase Curtis was all over his bumper. "We had a good car today, I really want to thank all my crew, they helped me get here," commented (Jaret) Curtis in victory lane. The win also gives Jaret the point lead over brother Chase by nine points. Heat wins went to Curtis and Hillary Renaud.

The Late Model Sportsman event had Aaron Fellows dominate the field for the win. Fellows not only took his heat race in fashion but showed the field it was his race for the taken, Fellows started on the front row and jumped out to the lead as the green waved. The green flag had problems staying out and a handful of yellow flags plagued the start of the 25-lap event. Fellows was able to withstand the charge of Robert Hager in the Monster sponsored machine. Hager was able to muster a charge on a couple attempts, but Fellows showed he had the dominate car today. Ryan Bell, Cole Littlewood and Justin Littlewood rounded out the top five. Fellows took down the heat win to start off the day. Fellows now has an eight point lead over Hager for the points battle.

This Saturday night (July 11), the speedway will host the annual Firecracker Night featuring the Street

Stock Battle for the Belt, the weekly divisions along with fireworks by Atlas. Advanced tickets are recommended and available online at monadnockspeedway.com.

July 5, 2020 Results

NHSTRA Modified Results: Ben Byrne, Todd Patnode, Brian Robie, Trevor Bleau, Cameron Houle, Solomon Brow, Anthony Bello, Cory Plummer, Jason Houle, Keith Carzello, Kevin Pittsinger, Kim Rivet, Rob Richardi, Jerry Gomarla, Bryan Crunden, Eric LeClair, JT Cloutier, Andy Major, Brian Chapin, Matt Kimball, Scott Bourn, Brad Zahensky

Street Stock Results: Jaret Curtis, Dave Greenslit, Chase Curtis, Jimmy Renfrew, Kyle Buck, Chris Buffone, Ed Lofland, Tim Wenzel, Mike Radzuik, Paul Barnard, Chris Riendeau, Robbie Streeter, Bryan Granger, Jon Porter, Eric LeBlond, Hillary Renaud, Troy Waterman, Chris Curtis

Late Model Sportsman Results: Aaron Fellows, Robert Hager, Ryan Bell, Cole Littlewood, Justin Littlewood, Matt Winter, Scott Beck, Camdyn Curtis

Mini Stock Results: Nathan Wenzel, Louis Maher II, Shelby Avery, Kevin Clayton, Ethan Marsh, Jared Roy, Tommy Silva, Gordon Farnum, Kevin McKnight, Pat Houle, Ray King, Jeff Asselin, Jake Puchalski, Tim Leblanc

LEAGUE, from page 7

it hard to predict how things will be next year, and he could not comment on how the 2021 season will look other than to hope the league will return with its full complement of teams.

The league typically played its games in Easthampton's Nonotuck

Park, with games in Agawam, South Hadley, Belchertown, and Monson in recent years. The league featured a football-style playoff format where all six teams were granted playoffs games. The first two seeds would receive byes with the semifinals featuring 3 vs. 6 and 4 vs. 5 and the winners heading to play the top two seeds the following week.

staggered for works to keep too many people out of one place.

All equipment must be sanitized between uses. Customers should not return equipment like weights to racks or containers without sanitizing it.

If you are working with a personal trainer, that trainer has to maintain social distancing and minimize close contact.

Another big thing gyms must do is allow 30 minutes between fitness classes to allow for thorough cleaning of those spaces.

Like many other businesses. If a gym has a worker, customer, or vendor with a positive test, the facility should be shut down for at least 24 hours for a full cleaning and disinfecting.

Various gyms will have other individual rules depending on the space. But the basics need to be followed by all in order to maintain smooth workouts for participants.

GYM, from page 7

out should wear a face mask. However, if the strenuous activity a participant is doing requires them to take the mask off, they must remain 14 feet away from others. When wearing a face mask, normal six feet social distancing is advised.

"Circuit training," the use of multiple machines, is discouraged and should be limited. Customers should be trying to use just one piece of equipment at a time.

For those who are into classes such as spinning, yoga, or Zumba, gyms are allowed to have them, but are still encouraging classes to be held outdoors whenever possible.

Gyms are only allowed to utilize 40 percent of its occupancy on record. There must be signage and other visual advisories letting people know how equipment should be accessed.

Lunch and break times should be

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Simply log on to our web site, choose the paper you want the announcement to appear in, then use our SUBMISSION link to email your information.



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PHASE III, from page 1

Businesses eligible to reopen in Step One of Phase III, subject to industry-specific rules concerning capacity and operations include movie theaters and outdoor performance venues; museums, cultural and historic sites; fitness centers and health clubs; certain indoor recreation activities with low contact potential; and professional sports teams, under the authority of league-wide rules, may hold games without spectators.

Full guidance and list of businesses eligible to reopen in Step One of Phase III can be found at www.mass.gov/reopening. Businesses and sectors set to begin opening in Phase III are subject to compliance with all mandatory safety standards.

Revised Gatherings Order

Under the updated gatherings order, indoor gatherings are limited to eight people per 1,000 square feet, but should not exceed 25 people in a single enclosed, indoor space.

Outdoor gatherings in enclosed spaces are limited to 25 percent of the facility's maximum permitted occupancy, with a maximum of 100 people in a single enclosed outdoor space. This includes community events, civic events, sporting events, concerts, conventions and more. This order does not apply to outdoor, unenclosed gatherings if proper social distancing measures are possible.

In Phase III, health care providers may continue to provide in-person procedures and services as allowed in Phase II, with the addition of certain group

treatment programs and day programs. These programs include adult day health, day habilitation programs, and substance abuse services day treatment and outpatient services. Certain human services programs can reopen including community based day services for adults with intellectual and cognitive disabilities and psycho-social rehabilitation clubhouses.

Health care providers are subject to compliance with all mandatory safety standards, and must continue to utilize prioritization policies established in Phase II for care delivery and scheduling, as well as monitor patient volume for non-essential, elective procedures and services.

Read the Full Guidance Online

In Phase III, visitation guidelines have been updated for 24/7 congre-

gate care facilities and programs overseen by the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, including the Departments of Developmental Services, Youth Services, Children and Families, Public Health, Mental Health and the Mass Rehabilitation Commission. Offsite visits, including overnight visits, will be allowed, under specific guidelines. Other updated guidelines, including visitation for long term care facilities, will be released later today.

Complete visitation guidance is available at www.mass.gov/hhs/reopening.

MassHealth will also extend its current telehealth flexibility through at least the end of the year to ensure member access to critical health care services and encourage continued adherence to preventative public health precautions.

Public Notices

Commonwealth of Massachusetts Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758
Docket No. HD19P1391EA

Estate of: JAMES B.J. HOAR
Date of Death: 03/03/2019
CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT

A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by Susan Young of Manchester, CT requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 07/31/2020.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further

notice to you.
WITNESS: Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court
Date: June 29, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
7/10/2020

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING WEBINAR Project File No. 604209

A Design Public Hearing Webinar will be published on the MassDOT website to present the design for the proposed rehabilitation of Route 5 & shared use path in Holyoke and West Springfield, MA.

WHEN: July 15, 2020

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing webinar is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed rehabilitation of Route 5 and shared use path project. All views and comments submitted in response to the webinar will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The project consists of two locations; the first location includes concrete pavement rehabilitation and full depth replacement along the Route 5 corridor beginning at Main Street in Holyoke, MA, and ending at the Interstate 91 interchange in West

Springfield, MA. The second location includes pedestrian and bicycle improvements beginning at Monterey Drive and ending at East Elm Street. The proposed improvements consist of narrowing the roadway from Main street to Highland Avenue, realignment of Brush Hill Avenue and Wayside Avenue to form "T" intersections, traffic improvements, a shared use path, bicycle accommodations, drainage and utility modifications and ADA/AAAB crossing enhancements.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands. MassDOT's policy concerning land acquisitions will be presented in the webinar.

Written views received by MassDOT subsequent to the date of this notice and up to five (5) days prior to the date of the webinar, plans and a project handout will be made available on the MassDOT website listed below.

Written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking are to be submitted to Patricia A. Leavenworth, P.E., Chief Engineer, MassDOT, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Roadway Project Management, Project File No. 604209. Such submissions

will also be accepted at the hearing webinar. Mailed statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be postmarked no later than ten (10) business days after this Public Hearing webinar. Project inquiries may be emailed to dot.feedback.highway@state.ma.us.

This location is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (including but not limited to interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, open or closed captioning for videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats, such as audio tapes, Braille and large print), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857) 368-8580, fax (857) 368-0602, TTD/TTY (857) 368-0603 or by email MASSDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us. Requests should be made as soon as possible prior to the meeting, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten business days before the meeting. Hearing webinar cancellation announcements will be posted on the internet at: <http://>

www.massdot.state.ma.us/ Highway/

JONATHAN GULLIVER
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR
PATRICIA A.
LEAVENWORTH, P.E.
CHIEF ENGINEER
7/03, 7/10/2020

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758
Docket No. HD20P0985EA

Estate of:
Mary E Wielgosz, Sr.
Also known as:
Mary E Wielgosz
Date of Death: 04/16/2020
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by **David Wielgosz** of Holyoke, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **David Wielgosz** of Holyoke, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the

Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 07/23/2020.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

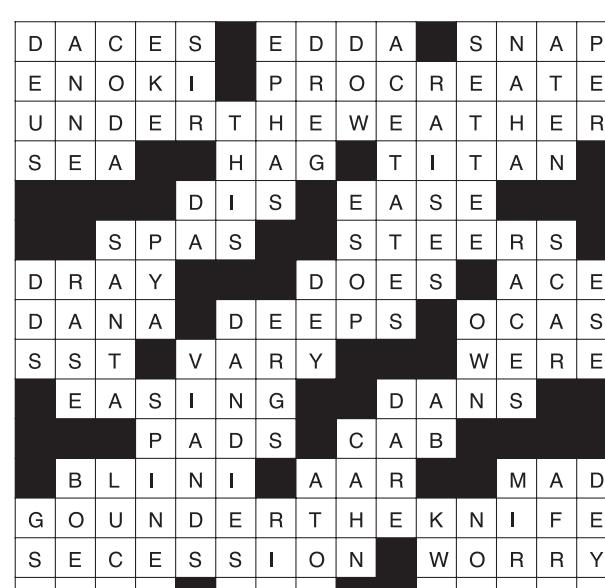
WITNESS: Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: June 25, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
7/10/2020

HOW TO SUBMIT PUBLIC NOTICES

All public notices to be published in the Holyoke Sun should be sent directly to notices@turley.com. Jamie Joslyn processes all public notices for this newspaper and can answer all of your questions regarding these notices. Please indicate the newspapers and publication date(s) for the notice(s) in the subject line of your email. For questions regarding coverage area, procedures or cost, please call Jamie directly at 413-283-8393.

Turley Publications, Inc. publishes 14 weekly newspapers throughout Western Massachusetts. Visit www.turley.com for more information.

Please check the accuracy of your public notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

The Sun
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$120, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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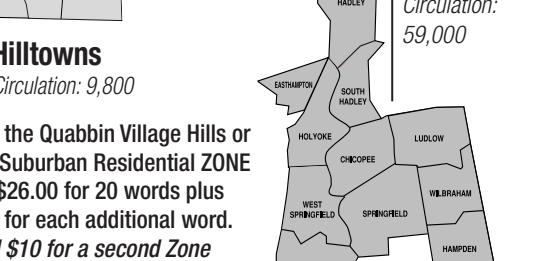
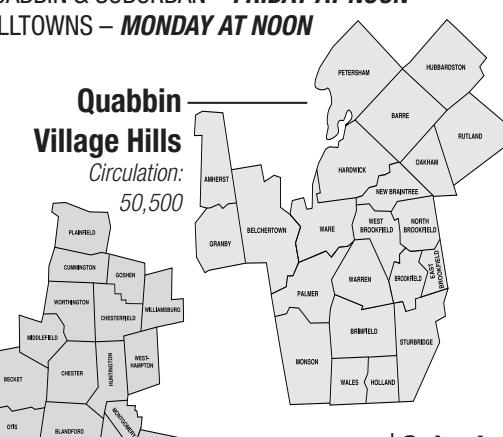
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STUDENTS, from page 1

Dr. Lloyd Fisher, a pediatrician, incoming president of the MA Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and father of school-aged children.

We are still processing and understanding the information found in this memo. We wanted to highlight a few components of the initial guidance that are particularly important as we plan for the next school year. The following bullet points are all direct quotes from the memo.

Our goal for the fall is to safely bring back as many students as possible to in-person school settings, to maximize learning and address our students' holistic needs. With the information provided in this memo, districts and schools should begin planning for a fall return that includes multiple possibilities, with a focus first and foremost on getting our students back into school buildings.

With adherence to a comprehensive set of critical health and safety requirements, we can bring our students, staff, and families safely back to school...

Based on the combination of health and safety requirements and rigorous protocols that we are putting in place for the fall, we believe the risk of transmission in schools is likely lower than the risks of transmission in many other settings. Furthermore, based on available data and effective implementation of critical health and safety practices, the rate of in-school transmissions has been low.

However, what can often get lost in long lists of practices is that it is not one mitigation strategy, but a combination of all these strategies taken together that will substantially reduce the risk of transmission. In other words, establishing a culture of health and safety in our schools that focuses on regularly enforcing these important practices is more important than any one measure... At the same time, a minimum physical distance of three feet has been established when combined with the other measures outlined in this list of safety requirements.

(Note: The strategies most prominently highlighted included: wearing face coverings/masks, physical distancing, hand washing, and staying home when sick.)

(Districts and schools are required to) prepare a reopening plan that addresses three possible learning models for this fall: in-person learning with new safety requirements, a hybrid of in-person and remote learning, and the continuation of remote learning (to ensure continuity of learning throughout the school year, even if circumstances change).

Families also play a critical role in supporting the new culture of health and safety that each school must establish. Most importantly, families can help mitigate the transmission of COVID19 in their school communities by checking their children daily for any COVID-19 symptoms and keeping them home from school if they are sick or have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19. Families can also contribute by supporting the use of masks in school and on the bus, arranging alternate transportation whenever possible, communicating with teachers, school leaders and local authorities, and continuing to follow state guidance on health and safety outside of school

As mentioned, this guidance is the initial guidance only. DESE will provide

more guidance in the coming weeks, in areas such as transportation, athletics, extracurricular activities, vaccines, and mask breaks.

Remember to check out our return to school web page and our summer school offerings as well! To register for summer school please visit our summer learning webpage. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact:

Extended School Year: Jill Hughes, Pupil Services Coordinator for Extended School Year Services at jhughes@hps.holyoke.ma.us,

Elementary/Middle School Programs: Michelle Macklin, Director of Extended Learning Programs at mmacklin@hps.holyoke.ma.us

High School Programs: Sheila Fallon, HHS Summer School coordinator at sfallon@hps.holyoke.ma.us or Mickey Buhl, Executive Director of Opportunity Academy at mbuhl@hps.holyoke.ma.us

If you have questions and suggestions about returning to school, please submit them on our Contact Us Form at <https://www.hps.holyoke.ma.us/about-us/contact/>.

RECEIVER, from page 1

and is inclusive of all students.

Despite the challenges of the COVID pandemic, I remain very hopeful for the future. I am eager to begin this new chapter of my life with you as we find new ways to support our students

and families that nurture, engage and ensure that our young people are poised to excel in college, career and community leadership.

I am looking forward to the day when I can meet each of you in person. In the meantime, I hope that you are all staying healthy.

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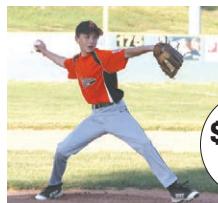
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Town of Ludlow is EOE/AA.

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Tourism councils launch statewide billboard campaign

BOSTON – Beginning this month, commuters throughout the commonwealth will see “postcards of love” from the state’s tourism destination. For the next three months, digital billboards and MBTA stations will display “With Love From” messages from the tourism regions of Massachusetts.

The billboard campaign is part of an initiative developed by the state’s Regional Tourism Councils, including the Greater Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau, to help restart the industry as the state reopens and to remind folks they can be a tourist from home.

“At the same moment Gov. [Charlie] Baker declared a state of emergency on March 10, the 16 Regional Tourism Council directors were meeting in Boston,” said Ann Marie Casey, co-chair of MA RTCs. “It was immediately evident to us that the damage to the tourism industry was going to be historic and we needed to plan for the day we could reopen.”

A marketing subcommittee of the councils quickly convened, reviewed the emerging research, committed funding and produced the “With Love From” theme with a new SpiritofMa.com land-

ing page. The billboards will lead to a landing page where visitors may choose a region of interest and click through to destination websites for regional updates and travel information.

“During these challenging times, we applaud this unified effort to market the commonwealth as an ideal place to vacation when the time is right,” said Keiko Orrall, executive director of the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism.

Recent traveler sentiment surveys suggest that folks will travel close to home and will look for accommodations,

dining and activities outdoors that are attesting to safety guidelines. Travel and tourism is one of Massachusetts’ key industries, accounting for nearly \$24.2 billion in direct spending in 2018 and generating \$1.6 billion in state and local taxes. The “With Love From” campaign reminds Massachusetts residents that the travel industry is open and safely caring for guests, and that its family and neighbors who work in the tourism industry are looking forward to going back to work.

To see images of the billboards and landing page, visit SpiritofMa.com.

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